93/2626



## PATENT APPLICATION

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

YOSHINOBU SHIRAIWA

YOSHINOBU SHIRAIWA

Group Art Unit: 2626

Application No.: 10/046,480

Filed: January 16, 2002

For: IMAGE OUTPUT CONTROL APPARATUS

November 5, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the document listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

## (1) U.S. Patent No. 4,768,099

The above-listed document was cited in a European Search Report, dated September 22, 2004 for a counterpart European application and may be relevant for the reasons cited therein. A copy of this Search Report is enclosed.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely.

See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information

in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

The European Office Action lists six additional references (US 5,258,880, JP 08 21428, US 5,572,499, US 4,655,577, GB 2 286 944 and US 4,574,319) which are not enclosed or listed on the attached form PTO-1449 because they were cited and submitted in earlier filed Information Disclosure Statements dated January 16, 2002 and November 25, 2002.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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FORM PTO 1449 (m		MERCE	ATTY DOCKET NO. 03560.002135.1 APPLICATION NO. 10/046,480			80						
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS												
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE						
	4,768,099	08/30/1998	Mukai	358	257							
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	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT						
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EXAMINER			DATE CONSIDERED									

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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